

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

January 23, 2003
1:50 p.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. John C. Austin
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser (via telephone)
Mr. Michael Flanagan, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, ex officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

II. AGENDA MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Report on Federal Relations – Priority Issues in the 180th Congress
- B. Update on Public School Academies
- C. Adoption of Strategic Goal for 2003-2004
- D. Report on Consent Agenda
- E. Update on the No Child Left Behind Act Activities

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Information on the Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Adoption of Strategic Goal for 2003-2004 - added to agenda
- B. Discussion Regarding Modification to Education YES! and Limited English Proficient Students - added to agenda
- C. Update on the No Child Left Behind Activities - added to agenda
- D. 2002-2003 Learning Without Limits (LWL), Cycle 1 - Location Demonstration Sites and Program Applications - Initial - added to agenda
- E. 2002-2003 Title II, Part A(3) Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grant Program - Initial - added to agenda

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced the members of the State Board of Education and guests attending the meeting: Mrs. Elizabeth Bauer and Mrs. Carolyn Curtin, newly elected Board members; and Mr. Michael Flanagan, the Governor's representative, were welcomed to their first regular meeting of the State Board of Education.

VI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Record of Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 12, 2002

Dr. Moyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 12, 2002.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of December 12, 2002

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of Meeting of December 12, 2002.

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Michigan Early Childhood Collaborative Conference

Mrs. Straus apologized for missing part of the Committee of the Whole meeting. She said attended the Michigan Early Childhood Collaborative Conference in Dearborn earlier in the day. Mrs. Straus said she had the honor of introducing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, who addressed the conference participants. Mrs. Straus said the Governor has said education is her number one priority, with an emphasis on early childhood education. Mrs. Straus noted that Mrs. Curtin will head the Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy Task Force, formerly chaired Mrs. Sharon Wise.

B. Local School Board Member Recognition Month

Mrs. Straus said January is Local School Board Member Recognition Month. She said the Board previously passed a resolution honoring the work of local school board members, and they and other guests are always welcome to attend the State Board of Education meetings.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A. Ms. Connie Engle, 7390 Oliver Woods Drive, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. Ms. Engle, representing Communities for Equity, offered comments regarding equity for female athletes.

B. Ms. Libby Southworth, 1539 Ridgewood Avenue, East Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. Ms. Southworth, representing Communities for Equity, offered comments regarding equity for female athletes.

C. Ms. J. Kelli Sweet, 5102 Whippoorwill, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009. Ms. Sweet, representing Michigan Council for Social Studies, welcomed the new Board members and invited the Board members to attend the State Professional Development Program. Ms. Sweet presented the new Board members with framed copies of "Core Democratic Values."

D. Mr. John Noling, Michigan Council on Economic Education, Walsh College, 41500 Gardenbrook Road, Novi MI 48375-1313. Mr. Noling presented the new Board members with posters of "Core Economic Principles."

Mrs. Weiser ended her telephone connection.

E. Ms. Mary T. Wood, 27533 Santa Ana, Warren, Michigan 48093. Ms. Wood offered comments regarding charter schools.

F. Ms. Mary Leiker, 3560 52nd Street, Kentwood, Michigan 49512. Ms. Leiker, Superintendent, Kentwood Public Schools, offered comments regarding limited English proficient students and No Child Left Behind.

Also attending, but not offering comments during the Public Participation portion of the meeting were:

Ms. Marcia Bishop, 703 River Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49422. Ms. Bishop, Superintendent, Holland Public Schools.

Ms. Nery Garcia, 2156 Jacobus Court, Holland, Michigan 49424. Ms. Garcia, Principal, Washington Elementary School, Holland Public Schools.

Ms. Debra McNally, 4939 Burgis, Kentwood, Michigan 49508. Ms. McNally, Principal, Meadowlawn Elementary School, Kentwood Public Schools.

Ms. Barbara A. Ruga, 5005 Cascade Road, SE., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. Ms. Ruga, an attorney for Kentwood and Holland Public Schools.

Mr. Flanagan left the meeting.

IX. ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS FOR 2003-04

Mr. Watkins said the By-laws of the State Board of Education state that the members of the Board “may biennially elect at a meeting of each odd numbered year, from their membership, a president or co-presidents, vice president or co-vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and a NASBE Delegate.” Mr. Watkins declared that nominations were in order.

Dr. Moyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education nominate Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus as President of the State Board of Education for 2003-2004.

Mr. Watkins asked if there were additional nominations for President. No other nominations were offered.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent: Weiser

The motion carried.

Mr. Austin requested that the State Board of Education offices of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and National Association of State Boards of Education Delegate, be nominated en masse.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education nominate Mrs. Sharon L. Gire as Vice President, Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin as Secretary, Dr. Herbert S. Moyer as Treasurer, and Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire as NASBE Delegate, of the State Board of Education for 2003-2004.

Mr. Watkins asked if there were additional nominations. No other nominations were offered.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent: Weiser

The motion carried.

X. ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC GOAL FOR 2003-2004

Mr. Watkins said that at its retreat held on January 16-17, 2003, the State Board of Education reviewed its Strategic Goal for 2001-2002. He said during the discussion there was agreement that the Goal should remain in place for 2003-2004, with one slight modification at the end to include emphasis on chronically underperforming students as well as schools.

Mr. Austin and Mrs. Bauer said not all young people are in school, and the Strategic Goal should include all students. Mr. Austin said resources should continue to be focused toward those children who are not succeeding at a high level.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education adopt the following Strategic Goal for 2003-2004: Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on chronically underperforming schools and students.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent: Weiser

The motion carried.

Mr. Watkins asked staff to post the Strategic Goal for 2003-2004 in the Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room.

XI. DISCUSSION REGARDING MODIFICATION TO EDUCATION YES! AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer and Deputy Superintendent, presented the Discussion Regarding Modification to Education YES! and Limited English Proficient Students.

Dr. Hughes said No Child Left Behind requires an assessment in reading and math. He said there are 125 languages spoken by Michigan school children, and roughly 28,000 students speak Spanish and about 16,000 speak Arabic.

Dr. Hughes said he issued a memorandum dated January 15, 2003, regarding Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) testing of limited English proficient students. Dr. Hughes said districts and schools have raised concerns over administering the English MEAP tests this year to limited English students (LEP) who have not achieved the English language proficiency to enable them to read and comprehend the MEAP tests.

Dr. Hughes said the Department of Treasury is purchasing an alternative test in reading that could be used to assess those LEP students who are considered Non-English Proficient. Dr. Hughes said this alternative test would be available for administration in March. Dr. Hughes said the Department's proposal to the federal government with regard to including limited English proficient children in the state assessment is that, until the alternative test is available, limited English proficient students may be excused from taking the MEAP tests if they have not yet reached a level of English proficiency sufficient to yield valid and reliable information about what such students know and can do in the subject areas tested. Dr. Hughes said for this year, the judgment of the school or district as to which students to exempt will be respected.

Dr. Hughes distributed copies of a Fourth Grade Math Model prototype MEAP test question in the Bosnian language, and asked Board members to solve the problem. Board members commented that this was a perfect illustration of the adverse feelings that limited English proficient students may experience when asked to take a test in a language they cannot read or write.

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education adopt the Proposed State Board Resolution, as distributed and presented by Dr. Hughes.

Mrs. Gire said there is conflicting language in the No Child Left Behind legislation that she believes allows the Board to adopt the proposed resolution: "the inclusion of limited English proficient students who shall be assessed in a valid and reliable manner and provided reasonable accommodations on assessment . . ."

Mrs. Gire said the intent of the proposed resolution is to allow testing of limited English proficient students to be delayed until an alternative can be developed. Mrs. Gire also believes there may be civil rights violations.

Mrs. Gire asked Board members to read the article in the January 22, 2003, edition of Education Week titled "Approval of States' ESEA Plans Suggests Flexibility."

Ms. Barbara Ruga, an attorney for Kentwood and Holland Public Schools, said No Child Left Behind mandates valid and reliable tests. She said Michigan is now making its assessment process valid and reliable.

Mr. James Clor, Superintendent, Warren Consolidated Schools, said his district has 4,000 limited English proficient students. He does not believe that the No Child Left Behind legislation is intended to be punitive to students, teachers, and school districts. He said he supports the proposed resolution of the Board.

Mr. James Sandy, Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence, pledged to help the Department get answers to their questions regarding No Child Left Behind.

Mrs. McGuire spoke in favor of the motion. She said at this time with the law being so uncertain, and with the department being unable to get firm answers from the united states department of education, the board would be doing a grave injustice to students and districts to offer the test. She offered the following friendly amendment on page two:

Therefore, The State Board of Education ~~RESOLVES~~ DIRECTS:

The following additional friendly amendments to page two of the document were offered:

2. That until such alternate tests are available, AS A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION, and beginning with the 2002-2003 MEAP testing . . .
5. . . . limited English proficient students must take the ~~regular~~ APPROPRIATE state assessment tests . . .

There was consensus to accept all friendly amendments.

Dr. Moyer left the meeting.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Gire, McGuire, Straus
Absent: Moyer, Weiser

The motion carried.

The statement, as adopted, is attached as Exhibit A.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Approval of Criteria for Community Service Planning Grant Contracts
- C. Adoption of Resolution Honoring James E. O'Neill, Jr.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- B. approve the Criteria for the Community Service Planning Grant Contracts, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 8, 2003; and**
- C. adopt the Resolution Honoring James E. O'Neill, Jr..**

Mrs. Straus said she is pleased the Board is adopting a Resolution Honoring James E. O'Neill, Jr., former Chairman of the K-12 Subcommittee, House of Representatives. Mrs. Straus said he was a true friend of public education.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Gire, McGuire, Straus

Absent: Moyer, Weiser

The motion carried.

The resolution honoring James E. O'Neill, Jr., is attached as Exhibit B.

XIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

D. Report on Michigan Department of Education Cosponsorships

E. Report on Human Resources

N. Update on the No Child Left Behind Activities

Grants

F. 2002-2003 Charter School Grant Program, Continuation/Implementation – Eighth Cycle – Continuation

G. 2002-2003 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program – Initial

H. 2001-2002 Special Projects Grants Under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Building Parent Support for Effective Sexuality and HIV/STD Prevention Programs – Amendment

I. 2002-2003 Michigan Motorcycle Rider and Safety Education Program – Initial

J. 2002-2003 Learning Without Limits (LWL), Cycle 1 – Location Demonstration Sites and Program Applications – Initial

K. 2002-2003 Title II, Part A(3) Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grant Program – Initial

Mr. Watkins distributed copies of “Superintendent’s Report” dated January 23, 2003.

XIV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Michigan Virtual University – Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said she visited Michigan Virtual University. She said she was asked by Mrs. Straus to chair the Embracing the Information Age Task Force that was formerly chaired by Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr.. She said she will be gathering Task Force members who developed the report to prioritize the recommendations.

Mr. Watkins asked Ms. Carol Wolenberg, who worked with the Embracing the Information Age Task Force, to meet with Mrs. Bauer.

B. Vote of Confidence – Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus

Mrs. Straus said she is honored to serve as the President of the Board and thanked the members for their vote of confidence. She said she believes the Board is comprised of dedicated members who will work cooperatively with the Governor, Legislature, business, and Michigan citizens to achieve the goals of the Board. She welcomed Mrs. Bauer and Mrs. Curtin.

C. Follow-Up from Retreat – Mr. John C. Austin

Mr. Austin said he wants to be sure the Board follows up on ideas generated at the January retreat. He said he would like to have a Task Force on Infrastructure, as previously suggested. He said he agrees with Mrs. Bauer that a presentation to the Board from Michigan Virtual University would be beneficial.

D. Invitations – Mrs. Sharon L. Gire

Mrs. Gire invited Board members to visit Flynn Middle School, a magnet school for limited English proficient students, in the Warren Consolidated Schools.

On February 24, 2003, the Board has been invited to visit Warren Woods Public Schools to see the Arts Academy Program. Mrs. Gire will provide written information about the event.

XV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Watkins said the February 27, 2003, meeting will focus on early childhood education. He said the Governor has expressed interest in attending the meeting.

Mr. Watkins said the Department continues to face difficult budget issues. He invited all citizens to share their ideas with regard to balancing the budget.

Mr. Watkins asked the Board to think of creative ways and places to reach out to the constituency to make sure a variety of people are able to participate in Board deliberations.

XVI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. February 27, 2003
- B. March 27, 2003
- C. April 24, 2003
- D. May 22, 2003

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary